

REMARKS

The Applicants request reconsideration of the rejections, in consideration of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1 and 4-6 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Therefore, Claims 2-3 are pending.

Claims 1 and 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bass et al., U.S. 6,272,134 (Bass), in view of Ogawa et al., U.S. Patent Publication Application Serial No. 2002/0075872A1, (Ogawa). Without admitting to the propriety of the rejection, the Applicants have canceled Claims 1 and 4-6 and rewritten Claim 2 in independent form, to expedite allowance of the application.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application and allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,


Daniel J. Stanger
Registration No. 32,846
Attorney for Applicants

MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C.
1800 Diagonal Road, Suite 370
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
(703) 684-1120
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